



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**


**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Citipointe Christian College**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.03 pm): Manoj Tyagi, is a principal in India who is quoted as saying, 'Every child has a song and as teachers and school leaders it is our job to amplify the sound.' Since the issue of the Citipointe Christian College contract emerged, parents, current and former students and teachers have continued to raise further matters of concern with me. These matters should be of concern to all members of this House. I have been advised by members of the school community that there is no public acknowledgement of the school principal holding any educational qualification such as a Bachelor of Education or a Master in Teaching. Further, constituents are concerned that the principal may not even be a registered teacher with the Queensland College of Teachers.

This is not a small issue, especially in the context of a controversy surrounding the school in recent weeks. Having worked with hundreds if not thousands of school leaders both here in Australia and from across the globe, I cannot imagine a principal who holds educational qualifications ever supporting the policy position that informed the Citipointe school contract, regardless of their religious beliefs. Parents are understandably questioning the capacity of the school principal to lead a teaching and learning agenda that will deliver improved learning outcomes for their students. Parents are feeling angry and betrayed. They feel this is a significant violation of the trust that our community, and in particular fee-paying parents, place in our schools. Who could blame them? Parents have a right to expect that their schools will be led by someone with an educational qualification. I believe that the vast majority of Queenslanders would agree. I thank the Minister for Education for initiating steps to address this important issue through the timely revision of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017.

There are many other serious allegations that have been raised by parents and students which I have referred to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, known as NSSAB. I am confident that these issues will be investigated thoroughly by the board. I thank the Minister for Education, the Attorney-General and NSSAB for their ongoing response to this important issue, which has impacted hundreds of families in the Mansfield electorate, and for their acknowledgement of the impact this issue has had on public confidence and the broader Queensland community's expectations of student safety and the right of every Queensland child to experience fairness, equity, acceptance and the opportunity to experience educational success—to open the minds of our young people, not close the minds of our young people, and to amplify the sound of each child's song.